



## Michigan Department of Human Services Office of Child Support

### ELECTRONIC DISBURSEMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT

- Public Act 548 of 2004 (MCL 400.236(4)) requires that the Michigan State Disbursement Unit (MiSDU) disburse support electronically, either through direct deposit to an individual's checking/savings account or to a debit card.
- One-third of Michigan's child support customers already have direct deposit. All customers will be offered a choice of either direct deposit to checking/savings or debit card. (In other states with electronic disbursement, statistics show that approximately two-thirds chose direct deposit and one-third received a debit card.)
- The debit card option will be phased into electronic disbursement during 2006. See the statewide implementation schedule.
- Electronic disbursement:
  - Provides immediate access to funds.
  - Eliminates mail delays and lost or stolen checks.
  - Eliminates check-cashing fees.
  - Eliminates returned mail and delays when customer has not updated his/her address.
  - Reduces money held by the state waiting for a customer to update his/her address.
  - Makes more efficient use of taxpayer dollars (better service, lower cost).
- Exemptions to electronic disbursement may be requested/granted for:
  - Individuals with a mental or physical disability that imposes a hardship.
  - Individuals with a language or literacy barrier that imposes a hardship.
  - Individuals with payments that are not recurring (two or less per year), or are not expected to continue in a 12-month period.
  - Individuals with both home and work addresses that are more than 30 miles from an ATM or their financial institution.
- When a customer chooses the debit card, the MiSDU deposits support payments directly to the card. The card can be used just like any Visa-branded card. (Only the MiSDU can deposit money into this account; the cardholder cannot add funds.)
- There is no fee to use the card at the millions of locations that accept Visa debit card for point-of-sale transactions (grocery stores, retailers, gas stations, etc.).
- Customers can also get cash back with purchase from Interlink merchants without any fee. There are over 29,000 Interlink merchants in Michigan.
- Each cardholder can also receive cash back free of charge from any bank or credit union that process Visa cash advances at the teller window.
- Customers that choose to use an ATM to access their debit card funds will pay ATM fees. Today, customers without checking/savings accounts have few alternatives to paying check-cashing fees.
- For additional information on electronic disbursement go to the child support section of the DHS Web site [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs) or [www.misdu.com](http://www.misdu.com)



**Michigan Department of Human Services**  
Office of Child Support

**Electronic Disbursement of Child Support  
Statewide Implementation Schedule**

<b>MONTH*</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
2005 November	Pilot Counties: Muskegon, Shiawassee, Marquette
2006 January	Oakland
February	Huron, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair, Sanilac, Tuscola
March	Macomb
April	Genesee
May	Alcona, Alger, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Baraga, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Emmet, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Iosco, Iron, Kalkaska, Keweenaw, Leelanau, Luce, Mackinac, Menominee, Montmorency, Ontonagon, Oscoda, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Schoolcraft
June	Kent
July	Berrien, Branch, Cass, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Saint Joseph, Van Buren
August	Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Montcalm, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Roscommon, Wexford.
September	Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Washtenaw
October	Allegan, Gratiot, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Saginaw
November	Barry, Calhoun, Jackson, Monroe
December	Wayne

\*This is the month in which the first of the three notices is sent to clients asking them to return the request for direct deposit or a debit card will be sent. Within two weeks after the first notice, a second notice is sent to those who have not chosen direct deposit to request again that they choose direct deposit or receive a debit card. Approximately two weeks after the second notice, a third notice is sent to those who have not chosen direct deposit to let them know they will receive a debit card. They receive a debit card approximately one week after the third notice.